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I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Complete specification in connection with Application No. 2004200846 for a patent by DYNA KELLIE PREDEBON as filed on 03 March 2004.

WITNESS my hand this
Sixth day of April 2005

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SUPPORT AND SALES



A DOOR STAY

Field of the Invention

This invention is directed to a door stay and particularly to a stay that can be attached to a door to prevent the door from being latched or locked and also accidentally closed. The device is typically attached to the door handle and can form the appearance of toy animals. The device finds particular use in children's bedrooms where there is an advantage in having the door slightly ajar but not able to accidentally latch closed.

Background Art

When putting children to sleep in a bedroom, many mothers wish to have the bedroom door slightly ajar to enable them to hear any unusual sounds. Also, children often find sleeping easier if they can also hear some noise. It is found that keeping the door slightly open provides a good balance between a reduction of noise and like in the child's bedroom while still allowing the mother to hear any unusual sounds.

A simple way is to simply leave the door slightly open. However, it is found that gusts of wind can cause the door to suddenly slam closed. This can cause distress to the baby and requires the door to be repeatedly re-opened.

It is well known to use small wooden or plastic wedges that are wedged underneath the door to keep the door in a slightly open position. However, a disadvantage with a wedge is that it prevents the door from being opened further should the child wish to go to the toilet or should the mother wish to suddenly open the door possibly in a panic situation. Also, the gap between the bottom of the door and the floor/carpet is sometimes too small for positioning of a wedge.

It is also well-known to use a rolled up towel, a cushion, or other type of item which is positioned on the floor and between the door and the door jamb again to keep the door in a slightly open position. However, these devices can comprise a tripping hazard.

A disadvantage with all the above-mentioned devices is that they do not prevent the door latch from engaging with the striker or keeper on the door jamb in the event that the wedge/towel etc is inadvertently removed. Again, this can cause the door to suddenly close causing the baby to cry.

Small children are often easily frightened in darkened rooms. However,

children can be often comforted by a familiar object in the room such as a teddy bear or other stuffed toy. As the child will often look at the small crack of light in the slightly open door, there would be an advantage if a familiar object could be placed here to comfort the child.

5 Therefore, there would be an advantage if it were possible to provide a device that would keep the door slightly open and which would be more effective in preventing the latch tongue on the door from engaging with the keeper.

It will be clearly understood that, if a prior art publication is referred to herein, this reference does not constitute an admission that the publication forms part 10 of the common general knowledge in the art in Australia or in any other country.

Object of the Invention

It is an object of the invention to provide a door stay that may at least partially overcome the above-mentioned disadvantages or provide a useful or commercial choice.

15 In one form, the invention resides in a door stay, the door stay having a first part adapted to be supported by door handle on one side of the door, a second part adapted to be supported by the door handle on the other side of the door, and an intermediate part that is adapted to extend over the edge of the door typically to prevent the latch tongue from engaging with the keeper.

20 Thus, the door stay, rather than being placed on the ground, is now attached to each door handle and extends about the edge of the door and prevents the latch tongue from engaging into the keeper or striker on the door jamb. The door stay also prevents the door from being entirely closed, and does not have any parts on the floor that form a tripping hazard etc.

25 The first part and the second part may engage directly to, or about each door handle. Various ways are envisaged by which this can be achieved. In one form, the first part may comprise a loop which may extend about the door handle. In another form, the first part may comprise a string or ribbon or other type of line member that can be attached to the door. In yet another form, the first part and the second part may 30 be joined together and attached to each door handle. Other forms of attachment are also envisaged. For instance, each door handle may be provided with a Velcro portion which attaches to a corresponding Velcro portion of the first part and the second part. Clamps can also be used.

It is preferred however that the door handles are not modified and that the door stay is adapted to be supported by at least one and preferably both door handles.

The door handles may comprise rotating knobs, lever handles and the like. The door may comprise an internal door and will typically be the child's bedroom door, but no particular limitation is meant thereby and the door may comprise a toilet door, a bathroom door, any other type of internal and external door, and any other type of pivoting window or door. It is envisaged that the stay may also be used on a sliding door to prevent the sliding door from latching shut.

It is preferred that the door stay is manufactured to look like a child's toy. For instance, the door stay may be manufactured in the form of a stuffed animal such as a teddy bear, or any other type of animal. Thus, a child looking at the door will see a familiar stuffed animal. Another advantage of manufacturing the door stay in this manner is that the arms of the stuffed animal can comprise the first part and the second part of the door stay and the body of the stuffed animal can comprise the intermediate part. Of course, no particular limitation is meant by using a stuffed animal as a preferred type of door stay.

The first part and the second part should be long enough to enable them to be attached directly or indirectly or otherwise supported by the door handle. As a door handle is usually about 20 centimetres or less distant from the edge of the door, the first part and the second part will also have a typical length of between 5-20 centimetres and typically a length such that the end of the first part and the second part will be proximal to the door handle.

The intermediate portion should be sufficiently large to prevent or reduce the possibility of the latch tongue engaging into the door jamb striker or keeper. It is also preferred that the intermediate portion is cushioned to prevent any injury should a person or child walk into or past the door stay (it being appreciated that for a small child, the door stay may be at head height).

Brief Description of the Drawings

An embodiment of the invention will be described with reference to the following drawings in which:

Figure 1. Illustrates a door stay attached to a door and according to an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2. Illustrates the door stay of Figure 5, attached to a lever handled door.

Figure 3. Illustrates a front and rear view of a door stay where the first part and the second part are attached together to form a loop.

Figure 4. Illustrates a door stay where the first part and the second part are attached together to form a loop.

5 Figure 4A. Illustrates an attachment method for attaching the door stay of figure 4.

Figure 5. Illustrates a variation of the door stay which uses an elastic band to attach the door stay to each door handle.

10 Figure 6. Illustrates a variation to the door stay which uses Velcro to attach the door stay to each door handle.

Figure 7. Illustrates a variation to the door stay which uses a ribbon to attach the door stay to each door handle.

Best Mode

15 Referring to the illustrations, figures 1-4A illustrate a first version of the invention, while the remaining figures illustrate variations principally by which the door stay is attached to the door handles.

Referring initially to figures 1-4A, there is illustrated a door stay which is in the form of a plush toy 10. Door stay 10 comprises a first part in the form of a left arm 11 and a second part in the form of a right arm 12, each arm being padded 20 and extending to adjacent the door handle 13, 14. Arms 11, 12 are attached together via a band or loop 15 (particularly illustrated in figure 4). Figure 4A illustrates the attachment method to attach this version of the door stay to a door.

The door stay has an intermediate portion 16 which in the embodiment forms the body of the plush toy and which holds the door ajar sufficiently to prevent 25 the latch tongue 17 (see figure 1) from engaging into the keeper 18 (again see figure 1). In the embodiment described in these figures, there may also be an advantage in having band 15 extend over latch tongue 17 to provide extra safety although this need not be essential.

The door stay, as well as having the two arm members 11, 12, 30 preferably also has a pair of leg members 17, 18, with the leg members extending on each side of the door. These leg members (and the arm members) will keep the door stay in position.

Figure 5 illustrates a variation primarily to the way that the door stay is

attached. In this variation, the end of the first part 11 and the second part 12 is formed with elastic banding 19 that can be stretched (see 20) to extend over the door knob. This variation of the invention will make it more difficult for the child to remove the door stay.

5 Figure 6 illustrates a variation where the end of the first part 11 and second part 12 contain a Velcro strap 21 that can be wrapped around the door knob and attached to itself. The Velcro strap contains the inner part 22 and the outer part 23 that can be attached to each other.

10 Figure 7 illustrates a variation where a simple ribbon 24 is attached to the end of the first part 11 and the second part 12 and tied off against each handle.

15 The door stay according to the invention provides many advantages. Firstly, a breeze can flow through the bedroom by having the door slightly ajar. There is little or no possibility of the door inadvertently slamming shut. There is little or no possibility of a child's fingers getting caught in a closing door. A parent can easily 20 open the door silently (without needing to remove wedges etc) to check on the baby without any disturbance or noise. The child feels more secure by not being entirely closed in a room. In the case of a fire, the door can be quickly opened and any pressure differential caused by the fire will be minimised by preventing the door from being latched. The stay will attach easily to any type of door knob and there is no need 25 to worry about a floor tripping hazard etc. If it is desired to close the door, this can be easily achieved by removing one arm from one of the door knobs. If the stay is in the form of a plush toy, this is safe for the child to play with and can provide comfort and security to a child in the room (especially if the child plays with the door stay and bonds with it). By having the stay at door knob height, it is more difficult for a child to remove the stay compared with a roll of a towel etc on the floor.

Throughout the specification and the claims (if present), unless the context requires otherwise, the term "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to apply the inclusion of the stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

30 Throughout the specification and claims (if present), unless the context requires otherwise, the term "substantially" or "about" will be understood to not be limited to the value for the range qualified by the terms.

It should be appreciated that various other changes and modifications can be made to any embodiment described without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Claims:

1. In one form, the invention resides in a door stay, the door stay having a first part adapted to be supported by door handle on one side of the door, a second part adapted to be supported by the door handle on the other side of the door, and an intermediate part that is adapted to extend over the edge of the door to prevent the latch tongue from engaging with the keeper.
5
2. The stay as claimed in claim 1, comprising a plush toy, the toy having a first arm member comprising the first part, and a second arm member comprising the second part, and a body comprising the intermediate part.
- 10 3. The stay as claimed in claim 1, or claim 2, wherein the first part and the second part are joined together by a band member.
4. The stay as claimed in claim 1, or claim 2, wherein the first part and/or the second part comprises an elastic band adapted to fit about the door handle.
- 15 5. The stay as claimed in claim 1, or claim 2, wherein the first part and/or the second part comprises a Velcro strap to fit about the door handle.
6. The stay as claimed in claim 1, or claim 2, wherein the first part and/or the second part comprises a ribbon to fit about the door handle.
7. A stay substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

20

Dated this 3rd day of March 2004

Dyna Kellie Predebon

By her Patent Attorneys

CULLEN &CO.

Abstract

A door stay having a first part adapted to be supported by door handle on one side of the door, a second part adapted to be supported by the door handle on the other side of the door, and an intermediate part that is adapted to extend over the 5 edge of the door to prevent the latch tongue from engaging with the keeper.

1/4

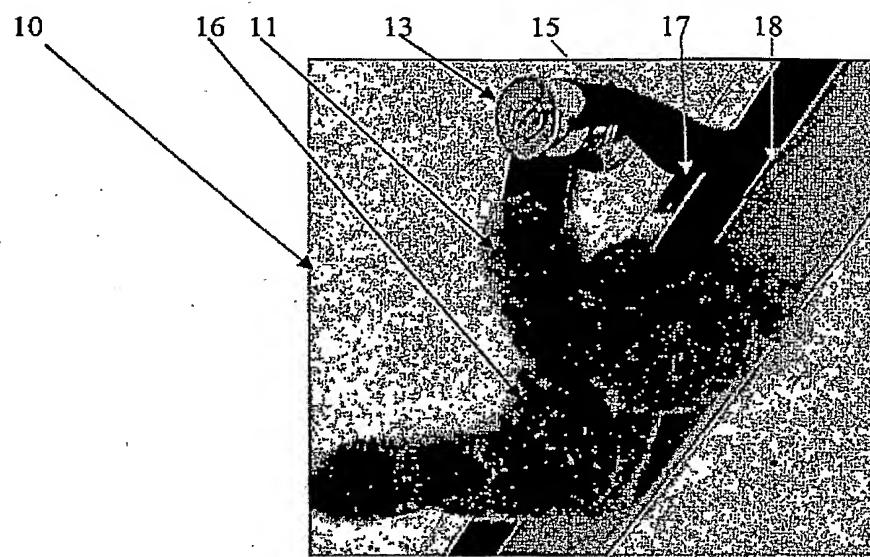


FIG 1

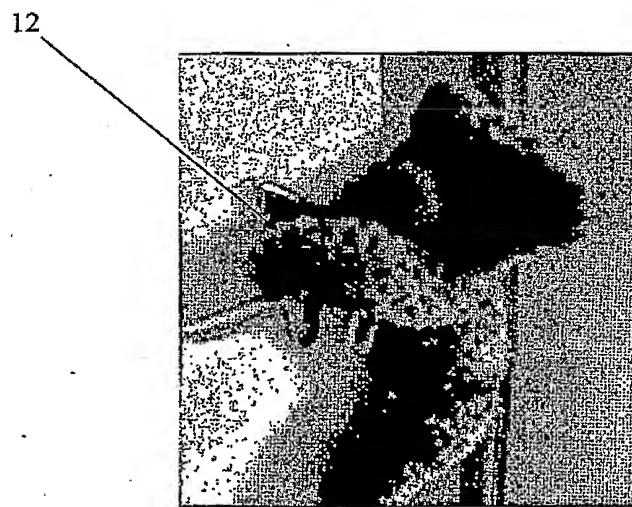


FIG 2

2/4

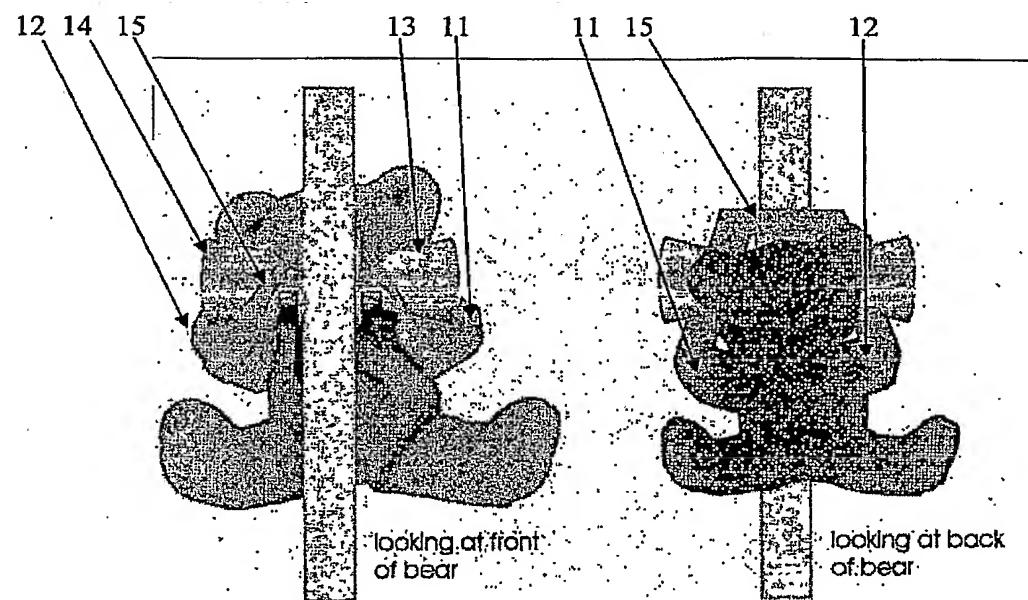


FIG 3

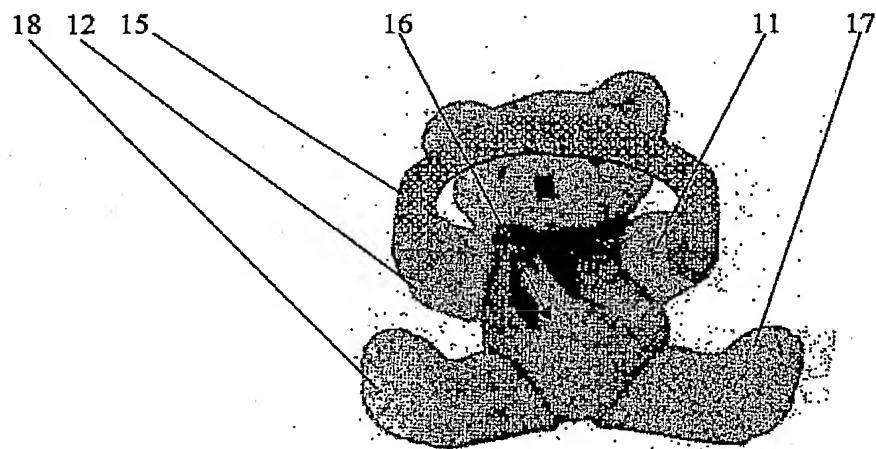


FIG 4

3/4

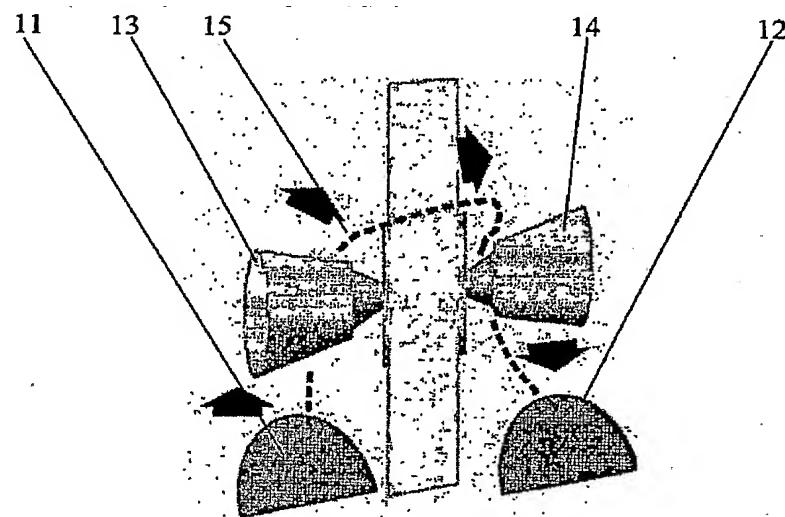


FIG 4A

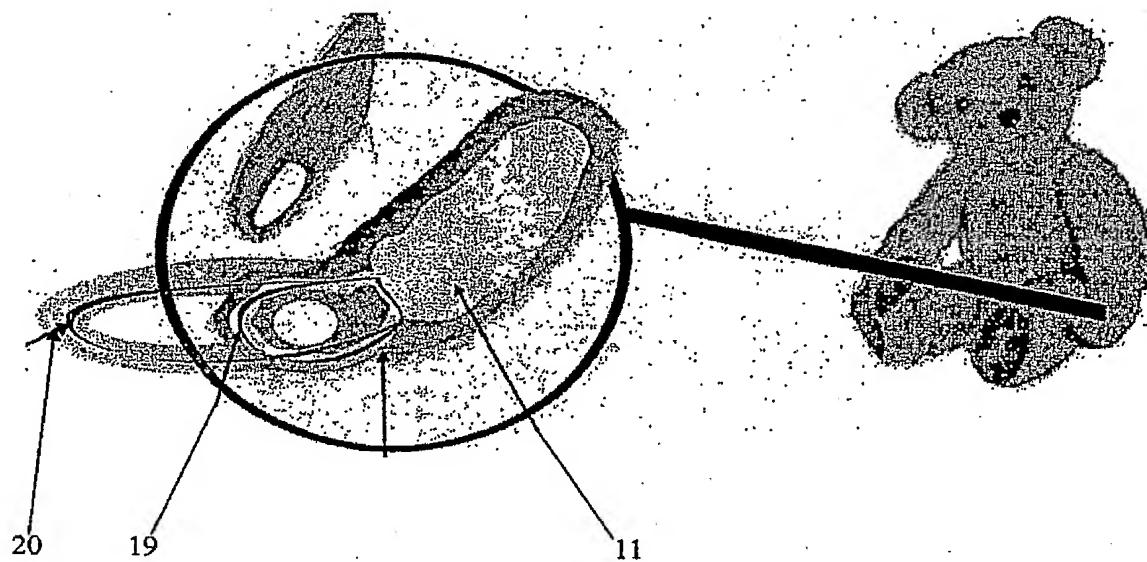


FIG 5

4/4

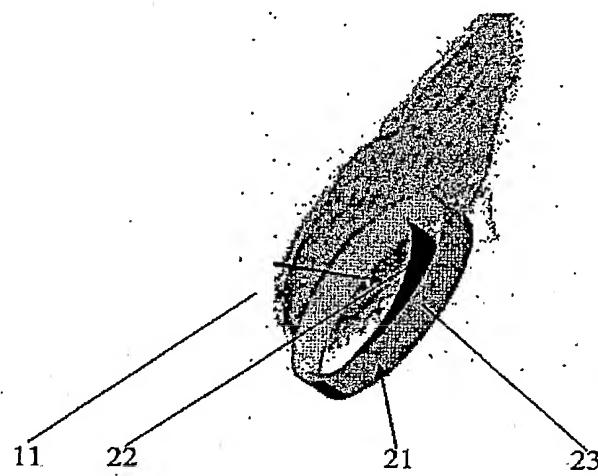


FIG 6

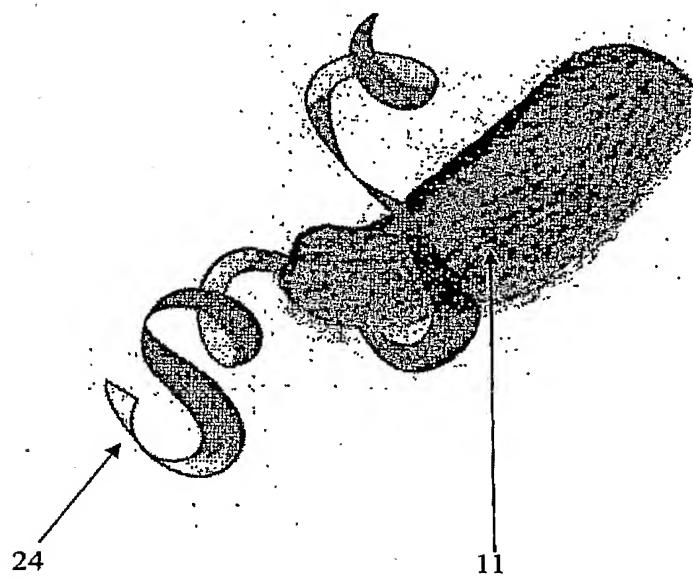


FIG 7